

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-10 IO-13

EB-07 NRC-07 OES-06 FEAE-00 ERDA-07 COME-00 MC-02

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O R 111704Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3883

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 23371

THE HAGUE FOR USDEL SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR, PAK, ENRG

SUBJECT: FURTHER AUGUST 11 FRENCH MEDIA ON SECRETARY'S
VISIT

1. LE MONDE FRONT-PAGED ITS AUGUST 12 ISSUE WITH AN INTERPRETIVE ARTICLE BY FOREIGN AFFAIRS EDITOR MICHEL TATU ENTITLED "PROLIFERATION OFF TO A GOOD START (LA PROLIFERATION EN BONNE VOIE)", AND WITH THE FOLLOWING LEADER "MR. KISSINGER ASKS TO PARTICIPATE IN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FRANCO-PAKISTANI AGREEMENT." MOST OF THE LENGTHY ARTICLE DESCRIBES THE HISTORIES OF NTB AND NPT, PROBLEMS OF THEIR INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION AND THE PRESENT PREDICAMENT POSED FOR COUNTRIES POSSESSING NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

2. THE FRANCO-PAKISTANI AGREEMENT ITSELF RECEIVED SECONDARY ATTENTION IN THE TATU ARTICLE, WHICH WENT UNCLASSIFIED

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ON AT LENGTH ABOUT PROLIFERATION AND ARMS CONTROL;

BUT TWO POINTS WHICH REFER TO U.S. PRACTICE AND
POLICY ON REPROCESSING PLANTS ADDED SOME BALANCE
TO THE PRESENT FRENCH PRESS COVERAGE.

-- QUOTE: NUCLEAR PLANTS ARE NOT IN QUESTION FOR
THE MOMENT: THE IAEA IN VIENNA ESTIMATES THAT
BY 1985 NUCLEAR REACTORS WILL PRODUCE 20 PERCENT OF
THE ENERGY CONSUMED IN THE WORLD. HOWEVER, MR.
KISSINGER IS VERY PROBABLY RIGHT IN FINDING SUSPECT
THE INFATUATION OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES FOR REPROCESSING
PLANTS OF THE TYPE THAT FRANCE WILL SELL TO PAKISTAN.
END QUOTE.

-- QUOTE: WITHOUT GOING INTO THE TECHNICAL CONSIDERA-
TIONS, IT SUFFICES TO NOTE THAT THE UNITED STATES
ITSELF, WITH ITS 60-SOME REACTORS, DOES NOT HAVE ONE
SINGLE "CIVIL" REPROCESSING PLANT. CONSIDERING THAT
NO "COMMERCIAL" USE HAS YET BEEN FOUND FOR PLUTONIUM,
WHY DO SOME COUNTRIES WISH TO ACQUIRE THE MEANS TO
MANUFACTURE IT EVEN BEFORE THEIR FIRST REACTOR HAS
BEEN COMPLETED? END QUOTE.

3. TATU LOOKS BACK ON THE LAST 30 YEARS' EXPERIENCE
SINCE THE U.S. BECAME A NUCLEAR POWER AND NOTES WITH
SATISFACTION THAT ONLY FIVE NEW COUNTRIES HAVE
ACCEDED TO THE CLUB. HE POSES RHETORICALLY THE
QUESTION OF WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF INDIA AND
PAKISTAN HAD NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN 1971, OR IF THESE
WEAPONS WERE INTRODUCED INTO THE MIDDLE EAST? TATU
CONCLUDES WITH A LOOK TO THE FUTURE AND REJECTS THE
VIEW THAT THE USE OF NUCLEAR ARMS WOULD NECESSARILY
SIGNAL A WORLD APOCALYPSE. HE CONTINUES "ONE CAN
JUST AS WELL SUPPORT (THE THEORY) THAT RATHER THAN
SETTING OFF AN UNCONTROLLED PROCESS, SUCH A CATASTROPHE
WOULD RATHER INCITE THE GREAT POWERS TO APPLY THEIR

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3884

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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BRAKES EVEN MORE IN ORDER TO AVOID A GENERALIZED CONFRONTATION. CONTRARY TO THE THEORIES OF THE 50S, THE CROSSING OF THE THRESHOLD DOES NOT MEAN THAT ONE TURNS TO THE IRRATIONAL, BUT THAT PRUDENCE AND CALCULATION ARE EVEN MORE NECESSARY...."

4. LE MONDE ALSO CARRIES A STRAIGHT REPORT OF THE SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 10, ADDING THE EDITORIAL COMMENT THAT THE SECRETARY CAREFULLY AVOIDED ANY TERM TO WHICH FRANCE COULD TAKE OFFENSE. IN ADDITION THE ARTICLE INTERPRETS THE SECRETARY'S REFERENCE TO THE PRESS' ACCURATE COVERAGE OF HIS STATEMENTS OF AUGUST 8 AS AN "IMPLICIT ADMISSION THAT THERE HAD BEEN PRESSURE ON PAKISTAN, WHICH IS IN ANY CASE OBVIOUS FROM THE EVIDENCE."

5. FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES IN AN INTERVIEW WITH RADIO STATION RTL IS REPORTED TO HAVE RESPONDED UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT "EXPLANATIONS WERE FURNISHED TO ME AND I HAVE NOTED THEM. THAT IS ALL. THE ELECTION PERIOD IN THE UNITED STATES CERTAINLY PLAYS A ROLE IN THIS AFFAIR. THERE IS NO REASON WHY THE CONTRACT BETWEEN FRANCE AND PAKISTAN WILL NOT BE RESPECTED." PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO, INTERVIEWED ON THE SAME STATION, IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE DOES NOT CONSIDER THE STATEMENTS BY MR. KISSINGER "AS AN ULTIMATUM. MR. KISSINGER HAS TRIED TO CONVINCE ME AND I DID THE SAME THING. IT IS A QUESTION OF AN AGREEMENT WHICH WE WILL NOT ABROGATE. OUR POSITION

REMAINS UNCHANGED: WE ARE GOING TO PROCEED WITH THE PURCHASE OF A REPROCESSING PLANT." FINALLY THE PAKISTANI CHARGE IN PARIS, AHMED KAMAL, INDICATED, ACCORDING TO AFP, THAT DISCUSSIONS WOULD PROCEED BETWEEN THE THREE INTERESTED STATES (FRANCE, THE U.S. AND PAKISTAN), BUT THAT THERE WAS, HOWEVER, NO QUESTION FOR HIS COUNTRY OF RENEGING ON THE AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED FOR THE FURNISHING OF A URANIUM REPROCESSING PLANT BY FRANCE TO PAKISTAN. KAMAL SAID THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS AND NOT THROUGH INSTITUTIONALIZED DISCUSSIONS.

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